

Greatest Issue in Fifty Years

[Jesse R. Johnson, in Clay Center, Kansas, Economist.]

When the war broke out in Europe it was predicted by many prominent men in this country that this would be the last great war, but within the past six months the military idea has grown faster and accomplished more than it has at any like period almost within the history of this country. The reason is apparent to the student and close observer. According to recent statements the combined increase in the value of stock of forty corporations in this country because of big war orders totals \$8,000,000,000 and the same interests that are making the rivers of Europe run red with the blood of men will not hesitate to put on a war in this country. Preparation is the first step, and the profits that accrue from preparation may suffice for a time, but as the years go by it will take war itself to satisfy the greed of that class that in every age has placed profits above the lives of men. Three hundred million dollars is the recommendation of President Wilson. This sum to be used to make instruments with which to kill human beings. It will be done under the disguise of being prepared in order to prevent war. Germany and every other nation made the same claim, and look at the awful results. But one corporation in this country that makes artificial limbs has already received from England and France an order for \$15,000,000 worth of arms and legs with which to replace those torn from their bodies because Germany was prepared. Every man and wo-

man that believes in God and the power of right to triumph over might must raise his voice against the military power that is beginning to show its ugly form in this country. Four hundred millions to be spent within the next five years, means twice that amount the following five years and war in the end. I have a son who will be eighteen in ten more years, and to quote from the splendid words of William Jennings Bryan, "I want him to live for his country instead of dying for it." When the time comes, as it will, if the present policy is given supremacy, poor men will give their lives and rich men will loan their money. Why shouldn't a wealthy man give his money in time of war just as freely as men give their lives? But they just loan it and thereby enslave the next generation with taxes. This is, in my opinion, the greatest question that has come before the American people since the war and men and women must consider it if they would avert the tragedies that are now being enacted in Europe. It will make a new alignment politically, democrats, republicans and socialists must stand for the doctrines laid down by Christ Jesus instead of this selfish doctrine of their political leaders. Bryan faces the greatest fight of his life. Beside it every other issue he has ever fought sinks into insignificance. If he wins he will have done more for humanity than any man since Lincoln. Anti-military societies should be organized in every town and every voice should be raised against the European policy that is liable to be adopted in this country.

mail The Commoner to the enclosed list of seven subscribers. I enclose money order for \$4.20.

R. W. Rastall, Los Angeles, Calif.: I appreciate The Commoner very highly. There is no periodical which comes to my table that is more warmly welcomed. The editorial matter is unsurpassed, and the topics are indeed timely. It is really refreshing to find the public leader who believes that moral conscience is the highest guide for the individual, and who has the moral stamina to be willing to stand or fall by his conscientious convictions. Fortunate indeed are we to have the voice of such a man raised in protest against the attempted foisting on the nation of the hateful, blighting spirit of militarism which has cursed Europe. I am surprised and pained to find that some ministers of Christian churches are "falling" for the so-called "Patriotic Preparedness." I deeply regret that President Wilson has taken the position he has on the preparedness question. It does not appear at all like the Wilson we had all learned to so much admire a few short months ago. I wish to thank you for your sane and consistent utterances, even in the face of such bitter criticism. More power to you, Mr. Bryan.

Jacob Levy, Kings City, Mo.: We are all heartily in favor of W. J. Bryan's peace policy, and against so-called preparedness, for no one wants to fight us. Please send The Commoner to the enclosed list of subscribers and find remittance of \$4.20 to cover same.

E. H. Rowley, Chincoteague, Vt.: You can depend upon me. Enclosed find check to pay for four yearly subscriptions to The Commoner.

Wm. Schwandt, Deer Park, Wis.: Enclosed find check to cover list of twenty-nine subscriptions. I am pay-

ing this out of my own pocket, because I believe yours to be a genuine United States citizen's paper.

J. K. Phillips, Independence, Va.: I am interested in the great work which I believe Mr. Bryan and The Commoner are doing. I want to say that I, and many others, both democrats and republicans of this section are heartily in sympathy with the stand Mr. Bryan has taken on the peace and so-called "preparedness" question. Strength to his arm. Enclosed find money order for club of five yearly subscriptions.

R. B. Stillwill, St. Jamestown, Mich.: I have already ordered two copies of The Commoner to my address, and enclosed find \$3.00 to pay for five additional copies each month for the coming year, that I may have them to hand out to my friends to read.

Thos. A. Welsh, Armstrong's Mills, Ohio. I am with Mr. Bryan on the war doctrine, and think his course right. Enclosed find money order to pay for club of five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner.

B. S. Harned, Boston, Ky.: Herewith my check for \$12.00 to pay for the enclosed club of twenty yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. Please send the November issue to these if possible.

L. Summers, Excelsior Springs, Mo.: We endorse the sentiment and spirit of your paper and send the enclosed list of seven yearly subscriptions according to your special proposition. Please send the November issue if possible.

Geo. W. Spratt, Weston, Mo. I sure can not afford to do without The Commoner; would not for the cost of a yearly subscription have missed what I got out of the November issue. I fully agree with W. J.

Bryan and am sorry to see our President take the position he has on the so-called "preparedness." Surely as other nations exhaust their military strength our relative strength is greater. The longer European countries continue the present war the less their ability to bother us. Furthermore, if we treat them in a spirit of fairness our little disputes can be easily settled after the war is over and those nations come to their senses. I shall do all I can to prevent militarism — it is less needed now than ever before. Enclosed find money order to pay for the club of six yearly subscriptions herewith.

Mr. Ernest R. Ringo, Salem, Oreg.: In accordance with the statement of the associate editor of The Commoner, I am enclosing herewith \$1.80 in payment of a year's subscription to your valuable paper for two new subscribers and the renewal of my own. I certainly endorse the work Mr. Bryan is doing. I frequently wonder what the great mass of people would do did they not have such an able champion of their right. I wish The Commoner could be in every home to offset the monstrous campaign of misrepresentation conducted by the subsidized press of the United States.

Mr. A. A. Gingrich, Wichita, Kans.: Enclosed find check for \$1.20 for two more subscriptions. The work is slow, but a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether does the business. We do not want militarism.

Dr. E. L. Dawson, Chickasaw, Okla. I enclose my personal check for \$1.20 for two more yearly subscriptions. Have also written to our congressman and registered my protest against the so-called preparedness business. The common people are being taxed to the limit of endurance. Success to Mr. Bryan—he is right again, as usual.

Mr. Joseph E. Leonard, Stevens Point, Wis.: Please send The Commoner to the enclosed list of five yearly subscriptions for which I enclose you money order for \$3.00. As soon as I can find some more time, will send more subscriptions to The Commoner.

Mr. J. W. McNabb, Duncan, Okla.: I send you herewith three two-year subscriptions and two yearly subscriptions and draft to cover same. These subscribers as well as myself like The Commoner and do not care to be without it.

Mr. C. A. Neiman, White Water, Kans.: I enclose check for \$3.00 to pay for five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. Am sorry that I am unable to make this club several times larger — but have been too busy to get around. I wish The Commoner the widest possible circulation; in fact I think it should be in every home where there are growing young men and young women who in time will exercise the right of franchise.

Mr. R. H. Arnold, Peoria, Ill.: Enclosed find draft on Chicago for \$5.40 to pay for the attached club of nine yearly subscribers to The Commoner. I shall endeavor to get you more subscribers soon.

Mr. R. W. Heflin, Aztec, N. Mex.: Among the changing scenes of passing years The Commoner is always found in the same old place — on the fring line, and as true to its constituency as the magnet to the pole, sixteen years to the test, 16 to 1, sixteen years faithful work to one people — the common people. May the favor of God be yours forever. Militarism

means waste, oppression and moral decay. Preparedness means militarism; keep up the good fight. Mr. Bryan is now gaining strength, he is the big figure in the world's greatest problem. I hand you herewith \$3.60 to cover six subscriptions.

Mr. H. B. Taylor, Mellette, S. Dak.: I wish to compliment Mr. Bryan on his good work in behalf of national military sanity. I believe it is not the desire of the people at large that we enter as a competitor of Europe on a large military program. Let the nation train our people in peaceful pursuits and we need have no fear that we always will be strong in defending our peace if occasion should arise. I am enclosing money order for four yearly subscriptions to The Commoner; will try to send more from time to time. I wish you God speed in the good work you are doing.

Mr. E. O. McCulloch, Wilmington, N. C.: Since reading from Mr. Bryan and the Hon. Claude Kitchin, congressman from my own state, I am so convinced of the righteousness of their position on "preparedness" that it has been a pleasure to secure a club of five subscribers, giving each subscriber the benefit of the net clubbing rate. I enclose express order for \$3.00 to pay for the club of five.

Mr. Eli Collins, Arlington, Ind.: Enclosed find check for \$3.00 for club of five yearly subscribers. Yours for truth and righteousness in government.

Mr. D. F. Miller, West Salem, Wis.: Enclosed find draft for \$3.00 in payment of five yearly subscriptions enclosed herewith. I hope for the continued success of your excellent paper.

NO "FRILLS" Just a Statement About Food.

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Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.